



May 26, 2006

This Week In Correction

A weekly update of events in the Tennessee Department of Correction

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:



"It's a health issue"

That was Commissioner Little's response this week to questions about the proposed ban on smoking in state prisons.

The Commissioner is moving forward with plans to make **TCIP** and **DSNF** tobacco free by October; other facilities would join in no sooner than July 1, 2007.

"We have staff and inmates who do not want to be around cigarette smoke," said Commissioner Little.

Understanding how difficult quitting smoking can be, Commissioner Little is working on plans to offer smoking cessation classes as well as incentives for inmates and

staff to kick the habit.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Here's a look at some of the bills that passed in the General Assembly this week.

Sexual Contact with Prisoners or Inmates:

This measure makes it a class E felony for a law enforcement officer or correctional officer to voluntarily engage in sexual contact with an inmate. The bill also expands the scope of the offense to include state or contract employees, volunteers and vendors. The bill provides that the conduct would be prohibited on or off the grounds of an institution. This new law will take effect on July 1, 2006.

Another bill adds cell phones or telecommunication devices to the current list of items designated as contraband. Taking such devices into a facility with unlawful intent becomes a felony offense.

This bill will take effect on July 1, 2006. More to come!

A MUST SEE:



It's a good thing ESPN never got hold of these pictures; otherwise George M. Little might have become Commissioner of the NBA rather than TDOC.

Whew! That was a close one.

These are photos from Commissioner Little's visit to **MLCC** for the annual Correctional Professionals event.

Commissioner Little represented **MLCC** in a free throw shooting contest against

FCI Memphis, Shelby County Division of Corrections and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office-Jail Division. **MLCC** came in second place.



FILM AT 11

The pre-release program at **NECX** is being featured on News Channel 11 (Johnson City) this week. The station will highlight 37 men whose sentences expire in the near future. They also interviewed instructor, Ms. Georgia Crowell, Counselor 3, about the importance of the program.

NECX also lent a helping hand to Officer Debbie Roark who is battling cancer and will be on extended leave. **NECX** held a bake sale for Officer Roark and raised over \$400.00. Thanks to all who gave. Our prayers are with Officer Roark and her family.

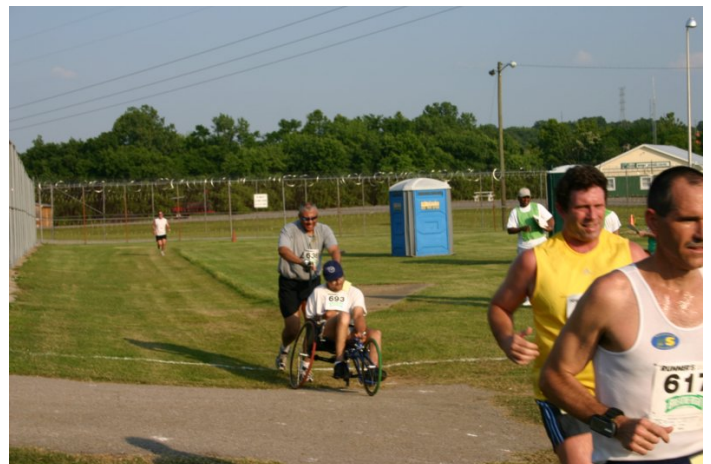
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT NECX



The Johnson County Leadership Class toured the **NECX** Administration Building this week and learned all about the economic impact of the prison from Warden Howard Carlton. Staff also informed the group of community service work, fiscal department procedures and other details about the fascinating world of corrections which the group acknowledges as a big asset to the community.

NASHVILLE STRIDERS AT CBCX

The annual 5K run sponsored by the Nashville Striders was held this week at **CBCX**. Major Robert Catlin from the Reserves participated in the run and assisted Mr. Marcellus Walker in completing the 5K. Several inmates recently paroled from **CBCX** also



returned to run.

WCBC NEWS

Congratulations to Corporal Buddy Smith who is currently serving in Iraq for his 10 years of service to **WCBC**. Officer Danny Staggs also received an award for 5 years of dedicated service.

Welcome Ms. Brenda Vanhooose, RN, who recently joined the **WCBC** nursing staff.

15 Teenagers from the Lawrence County Learning Center in Lawrenceburg got an education after touring **WCBC** this week.

NWCX RELAY FOR LIFE

Staff at **NWCX** has been working very hard this year to help the Relay for Life campaign. Thus far, a little over \$4,000.00 has been raised through several fundraising events including an auction on a local television station, a Womanless Beauty Revue (don't ask) and a BBQ Cook-off. Acting Warden Mills would like to thank all staff at **NWCX** for supporting this event.

WOULD TIGER DO THAT?

Despite the fact that Dennis Hayes (Engineering) decided to plant one on Brad Smythe (Accreditation), Central Office golf outings typically don't get out of hand and the golfers would love to have you join in the fun.



Golf outings are held each Thursday and you don't have to be a pro.

For more information contact Judy Davenport, Executive Secretary, Deputy Commissioner's Office at 741-1000x8142 or Judith.Davenport@state.tn.us



A SAFE RETURN

As we prepare for the long Memorial Day holiday, a reminder from Commissioner Little that this weekend is one of the deadliest on the roads. Remember to wear your seat belt, slow down and please don't drink and drive. Have a good one!

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"In unity there is strength. Consider the fragile snowflake that flutters slowly to earth and disintegrates: however, if enough of them stick together they can paralyze an entire city."

---William Rosenberg

Submitted by Susan Hatley, Vocational Instructor, MLCC

"Hard times knocking on your door, I'll tell them you ain't there no more"

---Lyric from Steve Winwood's 1988 hit song "Roll with it"